

Gelligaer Urban District Council.



ACKD BY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1970



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Public Health Department
Council Offices
Hengoed

30th. July 1971

Tel. Hengoed 2241.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs. Jenkins and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the state of the public health in the Gelligaer Urban Area and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1970.

The trend for a falling population is again seen, the estimated mid-year population for 1970 being 34,420.

The adjusted death rate was 15.4 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales and 14.1 for the Administrative County of Glamorgan. The high death rate in the valleys of South Wales is in part a legacy from the days when unemployment was high and when many fit young people left the area to work elsewhere, leaving a higher proportion of less fit and disabled. It also reflects the pattern of industry with the high incidence of pneumoconiosis and bronchitis.

The peri-natal mortality and the infant mortality rates are also higher than the national rates. The perinatal mortality rate was 27 still-births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still-births compared with a rate of 23 for England and Wales and 27 for Glamorgan. The infant mortality was 29 deaths under one year per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 18 for England and Wales and 21 for Glamorgan. Although the rates are high compared with national rates there has been a substantial decline in the rates over the past years and in fact Gelligaer Urban District is the only mining valley in central and east Glamorgan where the average peri-natal rate for the past five years has been below the average for the County.

Most of the deaths in children over a year old, and in young adults, were caused by accident. Infectious disease, including tuberculosis now plays a very small part in causing deaths in the young. In middle age, coronary thrombosis continues to take its toll and it is sad to see so many middle-aged men succumb to the disease. Even more tragic are the deaths from cancer of the lung as these might have been prevented.

All premature deaths should be a matter of concern to the community as also should be all non-fatal conditions which cause suffering or affect the quality of life.

In the past, prevention of disease was largely a medical matter with the need for prophylactic injections and chemotherapy. Many of the present conditions which kill or maim will only be conquered by social means. There is a great deal of work to be done in overcoming the epidemic of accidents on the road or in the home. Many more men would reach old age if they changed their habits by giving up cigarette smoking, by taking a reasonable amount of exercise, by controlling weight, and by by-passing where possible the stressful situations in life. Even more important is the need to adjust family habits so that the young are educated and shown by example the habits that promote good health. The peri-natal mortality rate could be reduced still further if all expectant mothers could be persuaded to take advantage of the facilities provided for good ante-natal care by visiting ante-natal clinics early in pregnancy and attending regularly. Family planning advice, if sought, would also help reduce the number of still-births and deaths in early infancy in women who are known to be at risk of suffering this tragedy and who do not want another pregnancy.

The Council has continued its concern with the problems of the aged by extending to the limit all the functions that are within their statutory powers. During 1970 more ground floor flats were reserved for the aged and new bungalows at Pontlottyn have been completed. Plans are also going forward for pensioners' dwellings in in-fill sites in other villages. Meals continue to be supplied on a large scale to the more active at meals' centres throughout the area, and over 800 pensioners availed themselves of this amenity in 1970. Concessionary 'bus fares are a great help to older people, enabling them to get about and see their families more often and in making life more interesting and enjoyable.

In 1970, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act was passed. This should make life a little easier for the disabled. These people, whether disabled by physical or mental illness suffer great hardship, especially those who are severely handicapped. Not only do they have to endure the personal problems associated with their disabilities, but they also have to face unemployment and often social isolation. They nearly always have to exist on a greatly lowered income when they become disabled and many live in homes which are quite unsuitable, with steps or stairs which cannot be negotiated, and often lacking the ordinary amenities which are so necessary for the disabled.

We are still waiting for final plans in the re-organisation of the National Health Service and it now seems that 1974 will see the end of the Tripartite system and that there will be unification of the Hospital, Local Authority and General Practitioner Services.

I wish to thank the Divisional Medical Officer for Glamorgan for information on the County Health Services, and also the Clerk and Housing Manager of this Authority for information they have supplied.

I also wish to pay tribute to my colleagues in the Public Health Department for their loyalty, and for the efficient and enthusiastic way in which they have worked during the year.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officers of the Council for their help, consideration and co-operation during 1970.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH G. JAMES

Medical Officer of Health

Chairman
Vice - Chairman

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R. Dwyer
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W. G. Hancock
A. Harris
H. Harris

D. B. Cope
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J. B. Jones
W. Poynts
E. Price
W. P. Richards, J.P.
A. R. Rogers, C.S.
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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	Walter Bowen
Vice-Chairman	-	B. Harris

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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R. Dymond	G. T. Richards, J.P.
H. V. Edwards	A. R. Rogers, C.C.
E. Evans	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
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J. V. Davies	W. Poyntz
R. Dymond	H. Price
H. V. Edwards	G. T. Richards, J.P.
E. Evans	A. R. Rogers, C.C.
R. H. Gibson	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
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Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, Ll. B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	H. E. B. Matthews, A.I.M.T.A.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	J. E. E. Bird, A.M.B.I.M., A.G.S.
Omnibus Manager	-	Roy Marshall, A.M.Inst. E.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	Elizabeth G. James, B.Sc., M.B., B. Ch., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector, R. S. H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R. S. H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	G. Walwyn, D.P.H.I.M.B.
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton
Meals Organiser	-	D. Bate
Rodent Officer	-	L. Trollope
Pests Officer	-	A. Bate

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population	-	34,420
Total Acreage	-	16,772
Rateable Value	-	£714,468
Product of 1d. rate	-	£2,970

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 34,420

LIVE BIRTHS

					<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Total ...	...	...	...	...	556	274	282
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	519	255	264
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	37	19	18

STILL-BIRTHS

Total ...	...	...	...	...	7	2	5
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1

LIVE BIRTHS

1947	-	830
1948	-	786
1949	-	750
1950	-	708
1951	-	631
1952	-	629
1953	-	664
1954	-	644
1955	-	672
1956	-	640
1957	-	667
1958	-	647
1959	-	648
1960	-	605
1961	-	634
1962	-	688
1963	-	675
1964	-	676
1965	-	690
1966	-	658
1967	-	657
1968	-	616
1969	-	606
1970	-	556

The estimated population for 1970 continues to decline and now stands at 34,420.

The number of live births also shows the same trend, falling from 570 in 1969 to 556 in 1970.

The birth rate - i.e. the number of live births per 1,000 population is 16.2 (crude and adjusted) which is a little above the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The fall in the number of births reflects the decline in the population.

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DEATHS

In 1970 deaths numbered 418 - 237 males ; 181 females ;

1961	-	396
1962	-	423
1963	-	425
1964	-	398
1965	-	416
1966	-	413
1967	-	385
1968	-	409
1969	-	447
1970	-	418

There were 418 deaths in the Urban Area during 1970, giving a crude death rate of 12.2 per 1,000 population, and an adjusted death rate of 15.4 per 1,000 population. These rates are higher than the national rate. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7. The ratio of the death rate to the national rate is 1.31.

The following table gives the number of deaths at different ages :-

0	-	1 year	-	16	-	11	males ; 5 females ;
1	-	15 years	-	5	-	4	males ; 1 females ;
15	-	25 years	-	4	-	3	males ; 1 females ;
25	-	35 years	-	3	-	3	males ; 0 females ;
35	-	45 years	-	8	-	5	males ; 3 females ;
45	-	55 years	-	37	-	24	males ; 13 females ;
55	-	65 years	-	85	-	53	males ; 32 females ;
65	-	75 years	-	133	-	76	males ; 57 females ;
75 and over	-		-	127	-	58	males ; 69 females ;

Totals	-	418	237	181
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CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	-	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	2	2
Other Infective or Parasitic disease	-	1	2
Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	8	5	13
Malignant neoplasm of intestines	1	3	8
Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	19	4	23
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	9	9
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	4	-	4
Other malignant neoplasms	9	5	14
Diabetes Mellitis	-	2	2
Avitaminoses	1	-	1
Other endocrine diseases	1	4	5
Anaemias	1	1	2
Mental disorders	1	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	2	-	2
Other disorders of nervous system	3	2	5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	4	4	8
Hypertensive heart disease	6	5	11
Ischaemic heart disease	59	45	104
Other forms of heart disease	7	4	11
Cerebro-vascular disease	23	34	57
Other diseases of circulatory system	11	15	26
Influenza	3	5	8
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	26	4	30
Other diseases of respiratory system	11	5	16
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of the digestive system	3	6	9
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	-	2	2
Congenital anomilies	5	2	7
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of peri-natal mortality	1	1	2
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	8	2	10
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1

DEATHS IN THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

Deaths in the Young

From the age of 1 to 35 years the most important cause of death was accident. Of the 12 deaths, 7 were caused by accident and 1 by suicide. All deaths by accident occurred in males.

In the age group 35 to 44 years there were 8 deaths, 2 of which were caused by accident, 4 by diseases of the heart and circulation, and 2 by malignant disease.

Deaths in middle age

In the age group 45 to 54 years there were 37 deaths, the chief cause of death being malignant neoplasm (16 deaths) of which 7 were malignant neoplasm of the lungs and bronchus. 8 deaths were caused by diseases of the heart and circulatory system, and 4 by cardio-vascular disease.

In the age group 55 - 64 there were 85 deaths. The chief causes were ischaemic heart disease causing 20 deaths (14 males and 6 females). 10 of the deaths from malignant neoplasm were caused by malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchus. There were 9 deaths (8 males and one female) from bronchitis and emphysema.

In the age groups 1 year to 64 years deaths in males (92) were almost double those in females (50).

Deaths over the age of 65 years

Deaths in males continue to exceed those in females up to the age of 75 years. A large proportion of females live over the age of 75 years and it is only after this age that more females die than males. The chief cause at ages over 65 is ischaemic heart disease, causing 70 deaths. There were 28 deaths from malignant neoplasm. Bronchitis and emphysema caused 19 deaths in this age group.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATHIschaemic Heart Disease

Ischaemic heart disease was the chief cause of death in 1970 resulting in 104 deaths. Of these 25 occurred in men before the retirement age of 65 years. The cause or causes of this condition have not been determined with any degree of accuracy but factors associated with the condition are heredity, obesity, lack of physical exercise, and cigarette smoking.

Malignant Neoplasms

Malignant neoplasms caused 68 deaths in 1970, the most important of which was cancer of the lung and bronchus which caused 23 deaths, 19 of which were in males. Cigarette smoking is known to be the chief factor in the causation of cancer of the lungs. Many, if not all, deaths from cancer of lung could have been avoided.

Bronchitis and emphysema

Bronchitis and emphysema caused 30 deaths in 1970. There is a high incidence of respiratory disease in this area, probably related to the arduous and dusty conditions in which coal miners work. Other factors related to bronchitis are cigarette smoking, atmospheric pollution, and probably an inherited susceptibility to the conditions.

Deaths from accident

Deaths resulting from accident continue to be the chief cause of death in the young. From the age of 1 year to 35 years only 12 deaths occurred in 1970 and of these 7 were the result of accident. All these were in males.

All efforts made to lower the number of accidents on the road, at work, and in the home are to be encouraged as all these deaths are potentially avoidable.

INFANT MORTALITY

AGE AT DEATH	DEATHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL		DEATHS OCCURRING AT HOME	
	No.	Cause	No.	Cause
0 - 1 day	1 3	Cardio-resp. failure Congenital abnormality	-	
1 - 2 days	1 1	Respiratory failure Intra-ventricular haem.	-	
2 - 3 days	1	Cerebral haemorrhage	-	
3 - 4 days	1	Prematurity	-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
1 - 2 weeks	-		-	
2 - 3 weeks	1 1 1	Prematurity Broncho-pneumonia Cardio-respiratory failure	1	Broncho-pneumonia
3 - 4 weeks	-		-	
1 - 2 months	1	Congenital abnormality	-	
2 - 3 months	-		-	
3 - 4 months	-		1	Bronchiolitis
4 - 5 months	-		1	Bronchiolitis
5 - 6 months	-		-	
6 - 7 months	-		-	
7 - 8 months	-		-	
8 - 9 months	1	Hydro-encephalus	-	
9 - 10 months	-		-	
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months	-		-	
Total	13		3	

INFANT AND PERINATAL MORTALITY

PERINATAL MORTALITY

(STILLBIRTHS AND DEATHS UNDER
ONE WEEK COMBINED PER 1,000
TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS)

The perinatal mortality rate was 27 in 1970 compared with 23 for England and Wales as a whole. The rate in Gelligaer was the same as in Glamorgan as a whole (27).

The average rate for 1966 - 70 in Gelligaer was 26 compared with 30 for Glamorgan.

The County Medical Officer in his newsletter pointed out that Gelligaer is the only mining valley in Central and East Glamorgan where the average rate for the past five years has been below the County average. Perinatal mortality may be regarded as an index of the fitness of young women and the quality of ante-natal care, and represents loss of infant life due to causes in pregnancy and child birth. It also represents death due to congenital abnormalities, the prevention of which presents far more difficulties.

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)

The rate was 14 compared with 11 for England and Wales and 12 for Glamorgan.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)

This rate was 22 compared with 12 for England and Wales and 15 for Glamorgan.

This rate also depends chiefly on deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth, together with deaths caused by congenital abnormality.

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)

This rate relates to all infants who were born alive and died by the age of 1 year. The rate in Gelligaer was high - 29 - compared with 18 for England and Wales and 21 for Glamorgan. There were 16 such deaths, and of these 12 occurred before the age of 1 month and included 7 due to prematurity and other conditions associated with pregnancy and childbirth, 3 due to congenital abnormalities, and 2 due to broncho-pneumonia. Only 4 deaths occurred between the ages of one month and one year. Two of these were due to congenital abnormalities and 2 due to bronchiolitis.

The greatest cause of loss of life in infancy is prematurity and other conditions associated with pregnancy and childbirth and all efforts must be made to ensure that the expectant mother gets the best in ante-natal care and a hospital bed for the delivery of all mothers known to be at risk.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESNOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - AGES DISTRIBUTION

Disease	Total	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75 and over
Measles	441	22	54	63	62	166	72	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	144	9	8	7	4	8	24	18	30	28	6	2
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	-	-
Infect. Hepatitis	48	-	-	1	3	4	31	4	3	2	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEASLES

In spite of the fact that Measles can now be prevented by one single injection, this illness continues to account for the greatest number of notifications of infectious disease. Measles is a distressing illness and can have serious complications so it is hoped that more parents will seek protection for their children.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS

Infective hepatitis became generally notifiable in June 1968. In 1969 there were 74 cases, and in 1970 there were 48 cases. Severe hepatitis is potentially a more serious illness with a longer incubation period. Medical Officers of Health have been asked by the Welsh Office to obtain certain information from General Practitioners so that more knowledge of the epidemiology of the condition might be obtained.

DYSENTERY

144 cases of Dysentery were notified, chiefly from one area of the district. Investigations and tests failed to show the presence of an infecting organism. The cases did not occur in one or more large outbreaks but were single cases or groups of 2 or 3 cases occurring throughout the year.

RUBELLA

Rubella or German Measles is not notifiable but outbreaks occur. The illness is nearly always mild and complications are rare but the seriousness of the condition is that if it occurs in women in early stages of pregnancy her child could develop serious congenital abnormalities. Vaccination is now being offered to school girls between the ages of 11 and 13 years so that this risk to the children they may have in the future might be eliminated.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55 - 64 years	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 - 69 years	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
69 years and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	8	1	2	1	3	-	1	1

INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>INCIDENCE</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>	
1961	-	19	-	6
1962	-	15	-	9
1963	-	18	-	5
1964	-	13	-	1
1965	-	18	-	4
1966	-	10	-	-
1967	-	3	-	5
1968	-	7	-	3
1969	-	8	-	3
1970	-	12	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from Tuberculosis remain low. Not only has there been a steady decline in new cases and deaths over the past years, but also a change at the age in which the disease occurs. Comparing the present situation with only 15 years ago one can recognise the decline of cases in young adults who previously were the most numerous victims. The incidence is now the highest in older men. There is no comparable high incidence in older women, and it is thought that the disease in older men is not a new infection but a flare up of an old infection, with smoking as the significant factor. These older cases form a pool of infection in the community, especially when, as so often happens, the symptoms are thought by the patient to be ' smoker's cough' or bronchitis.

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VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

TYPE	Year of birth					OTHERS under 16	Total
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66		
Triple antigen	7	339	120	13	14	2	495
Diph./Tetanus	-	8	5	5	7	4	29
Diph./Pertussis	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Tetanus	1	2	1	1	7	51	63
Pertussis	-	1	1	-	-	-	2

BOOSTER DOSES

Triple Antigen	-	2	49	20	26	1	98
Diph/Tetanus	-	-	2	9	414	5	430
Tetanus	-	-	1	1	13	25	40

Other vaccination and immunisation figures
(total for Caerphilly and Gelligaer Urban Areas)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBERS</u>
Sabin	1156
Booster Sabin	992
Measles	624
Rubella	186
Smallpox	297
Smallpox revacc.	83
B.C.G.revaccination	768

HOUSING

Number of houses completed and occupied in 1970	-	140
Number of houses under course of erection	-	64
Number completed and occupied since 1918 (including 140 bungalows since demolished)	-	2914
Number of applicants on the Council's housing list 31.12.70	-	792
Number of families rehoused in 1970	-	348
Number of families rehoused as result of Closing Orders	-	21
Number of Old Age Pensioners rehoused	-	12
Number of families rehoused from slum clearance areas including Old Age Pensioners	-	65
Number of key workers rehoused	-	15
Rehoused as a result of fire	-	1

Two vacancies occurred at St. Gwladys Court during the year.

During 1970, the whole of Pentwyn was cleared and the properties demolished.

The Authority acquired 63, Park Place, Gilfach and arrangements are in hand for its improvement.

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CARE OF THE AGED

The care of the aged has become of great importance in recent years. Their numbers have increased and the proportion of elderly people in the community is much higher and is likely to become higher still in years ahead. It is estimated that $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the population is now over the age of 65 years, compared with $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the early twenties. In planning ahead for housing, hospital beds, and other health and welfare services this is of utmost significance.

SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY ORGANISED
BY THE GELLIGAER COUNCIL1) - Meals for the Aged.

The number of meals to the aged declined in 1970 by 9261 which means that 89 fewer pensioners took advantage of the service. This seems to have been correlated with a small increase in the charge. It may be that now pensioners find they can get a snack for less money, but snacks usually do not compare with the meals provided under the scheme. The meals are planned so that they are highly nutritious and the tastes of the elderly are always considered so that they get the foods that they like and want to eat. Arrangements are also made for special diets where necessary, such as for the diabetic, and those on fat free diets.

2) - Housing

During the year many pensioners were rehoused in suitable ground floor flats and bungalows for the aged, and at St. Gwladys' Court where a full time warden is in attendance. During the year also the bungalows for the aged at Pontlloftyn were nearing completion.

Concern was shown by the Council in the winter of 1970/71 when it was shown, after a survey, that 50% of the elderly people living in Council accommodation which was centrally heated by gas were not making use of the central heating because of cost. Many aged people used only inadequate methods of heating, such as old oil heaters and small electric fires. Where the central heating was not being used temperatures were much lower than those recommended, and many old people complained bitterly of the cold. It is important that old people, especially those who are not mobile or who are handicapped, should live in warm and comfortable surroundings because of the dangers of the development of hypothermia. The Council is considering all means whereby the position can be improved.

SERVICES FOR THE AGED
PROVIDED BY THE
GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Home Help service

<u>Persons over 65</u>	<u>Chronic sick and T.B.</u>	<u>Mentally disordered</u>	<u>Maternity</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
756	75	-	10	-	841

HOME NURSING

The following figures relate to the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Area :-

Total number cases nursed during the year	-	1813
Number of persons under 5 at first visit during the year	-	36
Number of persons over 65 at first visit during the year	-	822
Total number of visits made during the year	-	42494

CHIROPODY

(Caerphilly & Gelligaer Area)

Treatments given in clinics	-	2747
Treatments given in patients' own homes	-	1853
Treatments given in Old Peoples' Homes	-	13
Total treatments given	-	4613
Number of persons 65 and over treated	-	1725
Number of expectant mothers treated	-	1
Others	-	5
Total patients treated	-	1731

NIGHT SITTER-IN SERVICE

(Caerphilly & Gelligaer Area)

Total cases for the year	-	40
Total hours worked	-	3343

MEDICAL COMFORTS

(Caerphilly & Gelligaer Area)

Issues made by Home Nurses	-	40
Issues made from General Stock	-	373

	<u>Wheelchairs</u>	<u>Zimmers</u>	<u>Bedrests</u>	<u>Bedpans</u>
Requests	26	17	58	51
Issues	25	12	44	45

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>The Emporium, Bargoed</u>		<u>Council Offices, Hengoed</u>	
	<u>Rainfall</u> (in inches)	<u>Solids</u> (tons per sq.Mile)	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Solids</u>
January	5 . 06	14 . 97	8 . 42	13 . 34
February	5 . 08	15 . 06	5 . 81	13 . 72
March	2 . 63	20 . 46	2 . 54	18 . 74
April	3 . 10	8 . 70	3 . 40	9 . 90
May	0 . 52	7 . 68	1 . 27	7 . 13
June	2 . 09	9 . 86	1 . 70	11 . 89
July	3 . 30	6 . 51	3 . 80	8 . 89
August	3 . 46	11 . 31	4 . 25	7 . 59
September	4 . 17	23 . 49	4 . 57	11 . 02
October	4 . 93	16 . 96	5 . 75	9 . 60
November	8 . 42	21 . 46	8 . 19	10 . 15
December	2 . 13	8 . 10	2 . 28	7 . 20

The above readings were obtained by exposing a standard deposit gauge at both sites. The readings were low at Hengoed and fairly low at Bargoed except during certain months when easterly winds prevailed. With the closing of the Power House at Bargoed at the end of the year, it is likely that results in Bargoed will in future be similar to those at Hengoed. There will then be no serious source of air pollution in the Gelligaer Urban District.

COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

During 1971 medical examination carried out for the Council numbered 113. These included :-

- 46 for new employees
- 47 as a result of sickness
- 20 as routine for bus drivers or drivers of heavy goods vehicles.

ABSENTEEISM IN COUNCIL EMPLOYEES 1970

There is a high rate of absenteeism in employees of the Council. A study of the subject showed the following :-

Transport Dept. with 65 employees

Average number of working days lost per man due to sickness	-	25
Average number of working days lost per man due to industrial injury	-	2.3
Average number of working days lost per man for no known cause	-	1.9
Average number of working days lost per man for all causes	-	29

Public Works Dept. with 188 employees

Average number of working days lost due to sickness	-	19
Average number of working days lost due to industrial injury	-	2
Average number of working days lost for no known cause	-	2
Average number of working days lost per man for all causes	-	23

MEALS FOR THE AGED with 22 persons

Average number of working days lost per person due to sickness	-	20
Average number of working days lost per person due to industrial injury-	-	9
Average number of working days lost per person for no known cause	-	4
Average number of working days lost per persons all causes	-	33

COUNCIL OFFICE STAFF - 92 persons

Average number of working days lost per person due to sickness	-	11.2
Average number of working days lost per person due to industrial injury-	-	nil
Average number of working days lost per person for no known cause	-	nil
Average number of working days per person lost for all causes	-	11.2

HOUSING DEPT. with 55 employees

Average number of working days lost per person due to sickness	-	26
Average number of working days lost per man due to industrial injury	-	1.3
Average number of working days lost per man for no known cause	-	0.1
Average number of working days lost per man for all causes	-	27.4

Absenteeism due to industrial injury was low except in the case of the Meals for the Aged kitchen. The high rate of absenteeism there was due to the number of industrial injuries. These were all of a relatively minor nature and were chiefly strains and burns.

There is a very low rate of absenteeism in the number of Council Office staff. This may be due to several reasons. There may be less risk of becoming ill when working indoors, and the risk of industrial injury is negligible. An office worker, also, is able to continue work if he has, for instance, lumbago, or a heavy cold, whereas an outdoor worker would find this impossible. On the other hand, there may be a greater sense of responsibility or more work satisfaction in office workers causing them to be reluctant to take time off for minor illness.

Conclusions

There is a high incidence of absenteeism in Council workers. This is possibly due to the fact that many employees come to work for the Council after working for many years in the collieries and tend to be older and a little less fit. Most of the absenteeism is due to prolonged illness in a comparatively few employees and often results in premature retirement. There is, in addition, however a great deal of absenteeism due to trivial illness and while there is little evidence of actual malingering many employees once they are 'off sick' stay away from work longer than is necessary. In many of these cases the illness consists of subjective symptoms with no objective signs and although the doctor gives a certificate it is the patient who makes the decision about 'going off sick'. Control of this type of absenteeism is difficult and has to be a compromise between reasonable action and unreasonable prying. Tightening up of checking methods may result in more conscientious persons going back to work before they are fit, whilst having little effect on the less responsible person.

HEALTH EDUCATIONHOME SAFETY

In November 1968 it was decided by the Council to hold a campaign to bring to the notice of the public the extent and seriousness of accidents in the home. To inaugurate the campaign a meeting was held in Bargoed to which members of the public who held responsible positions were invited. The Member of Parliament for the area - the Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards - was the chairman and the meeting was addressed by a Senior Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health. Members of the Council, headteachers, and leaders of Youth Clubs, Old Age Pensioners, W. V. S., and other voluntary organisations were present. During the following weeks demonstrations were held at local shops, with displays of safe materials etc. Talks and films on home safety were given in schools, at O.A.P. meetings, and meetings of other organisations. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade demonstrated the 'Kiss of Life'. Publicity to the campaign was given in the press. In addition, an essay competition on Home Safety was organised in the schools, and during the presentation of the prizes the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Public Health Committee emphasised in their talks the importance of home safety.

During the year that followed the work was consolidated by all interested persons visiting schools and the homes - Health Visitors, Home Helps, Home Nurses, Public Health Inspectors and Schoolteachers.

Early in 1969 a Home Safety Committee was formed, which consisted of the members of the Council, Officers of the Council, and representatives of the Glamorgan County Council, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Supervisor of Home Helps, the Divisional Nursing Officer, the teaching profession, W. V. S. and Old Age Pensioners.

In June 1970 a special campaign was launched on Water Safety. In co-operation with the P. T. Instructor for Glamorgan, a short course of swimming instruction was given to all non-swimmers in the junior and senior schools. All who passed a proficiency examination were given certificates regarding the distance they were able to swim, and these were presented by the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Public Health Committee. At the end of each course of instruction, demonstrations of life saving were given by members of the Glamorgan Police. In addition, all schools were given film shows and talks on water safety, and the St. John Ambulance Brigade demonstrated the 'Kiss of Life'. Talks and publicity, films and demonstrations on the subject were also given at Welfare Clinics, Young Wives meetings etc. Every child at school was given a letter to take home to its parents on the dangers of water, and painting charts were also given to children. Again, essay competitions were organised. In July 1970 at the Bargoed carnival posters were exhibited and pamphlets distributed to the crowd on general aspects of Home Safety.

In the winter of 1970 - 71 a campaign was organised on Fire Prevention. Films were shown and talks given in schools, at Pensioners' meetings, clinics, and meetings of voluntary organisations on all aspects of Fire Prevention. The Glamorgan Fire Service placed their mobile exhibition at most towns and villages in the area, and groups of children from the schools, together with many members of the general public visited the exhibition. The Officers of the Fire Service also visited the schools and Pensioners' Halls giving talks and showing films.

SMOKING

Publicity drives were again undertaken to bring home to people the hazards of cigarette smoking ; and the County Authorities undertook this responsibility in schools, so the campaign and publicity drive was aimed at young people in youth clubs, community halls, clubs and places of work

CLEAN CATERING

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors have continued to give advice to shops and catering establishments on methods of clean catering and safe preparation of food.

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WATER SUPPLIES

In 1970, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, and Merthyr Tydfil Health Authorities asked the Taf Fechan Water Board to fluoridate water supplies from the Pontsticill Reservoir. The Board decided to ask the views of the 13 Authorities involved before making a final decision.

The Gelligaer Council have been for many years in favour of fluoridation.

The Glamorgan County Medical Officer gave me details of a sample survey undertaken in Glamorgan school children at 5 years of age. Only 8% were found to have sound teeth. The average 5 year old had 6 or 7 teeth which were missing, decayed or filled. In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division there was an even lower percentage of children with sound teeth - 6.4%. Of the 421 examined 23.8% had evidence of gross dental caries with ten or more teeth which were decayed, missing or filled. Most of these children must have suffered toothache ; many must have had dental abscesses ; and most would have to experience the discomfort of dental treatment. The answer to this widespread problem is preventive dentistry with its emphasis on dietary precautions and oral hygiene, and the fluoridation of water supplies. For a highly prevalent disease like dental caries it is essential to have some form of prevention that is applicable on a large scale. This is why fluoridation is the method of choice. Fluoridation of drinking water is past its experimental stages. Many studies in many countries- and without exception there is a consistency in results - show the exceptional reliability and safety of water fluoridation.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948
Section 47

Action was taken in one case under section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 involving the removal to hospital of an aged person in need of care and attention.

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REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR1970

I present my report upon the day-to-day routine work of the Public Health Department for the year 1970.

Work proceeded smoothly during the year which was notable for the virtual conclusion of the Slum Clearance programme at the township of Pontlloftyn. After extensive initial surveys the Council decided in the early 1950's to take action regarding the Clearance of existing dwelling houses comprising the northern portion of the town and the ultimate rehousing of the people living in these properties. Initially it was anticipated that approximately 400 houses would be found to be unfit in accordance with the requirements of part 3 of the Housing Act 1957, and after consultation with the various departments concerned it was decided to proceed in phasing the Clearance and rehousing of the people in such a manner that the cleared land could be utilised for building at logical and convenient spots. This method inevitably meant that some disruption and displacement occurred to the people rehoused, and caused some anxiety and heartache and no little resentment on occasions among the people affected. The Council's proposals, when made public, were referred to in the local newspapers as the "20 year plan for Pontlloftyn", and has ultimately been concerned with the clearance of 393 dwelling houses in the town, which at one time formed 24 streets and innumerable courts and back-alleys, and in all necessitating the declaration of 18 Clearance Orders. The scheme, now almost completed, has given the town a new face lift, the Council's contribution being the erection of 421 units of accommodation in or near the town; and, to finally complete the scheme, plans have been prepared or are in preparation for the further widening and re-aligning of the main street through the town; the demolition and clearance of existing dwelling houses and business premises abutting the main street with the provision of a new shopping area in a more central position; and the provision of a new Community Centre and Institute to replace the old Workmen's Library and Billiard Hall which has now been demolished.

63 dwelling houses were demolished and cleared in the town during 1970 and at the time of compiling this report a further 37 dwellings have been vacated and are awaiting clearance, the former occupants having been rehoused by the Council.

At the village of Pentwyn in the Fochriw Ward over half the houses that formerly comprised the village were very old, and completely lacking in modern amenities such as bathrooms and hot water supply, and had sanitary accommodation at the bottom of the garden at the rear of the houses. The Council some years ago made it known to the occupants that in their opinion the dwellings were sub-standard and not capable of improvement at a reasonable figure and it was their intention to demolish them when conditions were favourable - a view point with which the majority of the occupants readily agreed. These houses - totalling 21 - were also demolished and cleared during the year,

Individual houses dealt with and which were demolished or closed as unfit for human habitation included :-

Nos. 54 and 73, High Street, Troedrhifwuch
Terrace Bungalow, Pontlloftyn
Mountain House, Gelligaer
Garden Cottage, Trelewis

Work on the improvement of houses generally under the provisions and requirements of the Housing Act 1969 continued during the year and although it appears to be more widely known to the public at large than formerly that improvement grants for the modernisation of dwelling houses are available, many houses in the district are still lacking in the modern amenities. One explanation for this is possibly the fact that Grants are, of course, only obtainable on the 'pound for pound' basis which requires the applicant to be prepared to advance a substantial amount of money from his own pocket. During 1970 the number of Improvement Grants paid by the Gelligaer Council amounted to a total of 83 made up of 26 Discretionary Grants and 57 Standard Grants. Through the courtesy of the Clerk's Department I give below a table showing the number of grants paid in the last ten years :-

<u>Year</u>		<u>Discretionary Grants</u>		<u>Standard Grants</u>
1961	...	24	...	24
1962	...	28	...	19
1963	...	33	...	24
1964	...	40	...	26
1965	...	30	...	21
1966	...	42	...	80
1967	...	41	...	22
1968	...	23	...	49
1969	...	28	...	62
1970	...	26	...	57

Improvement Areas

The provision of Improvement Areas within the district has been the subject of much discussion up to the present and is still under active consideration at the time of the preparation of this report. Two areas were initially considered to be suitable, both having a total of approximately 270 - 300 dwelling houses. Both areas were surveyed and reported upon at the time and visits to the areas were also made by representatives of the Ministry to advise on their suitability or otherwise. Whilst no final decision has been made discussions are still proceeding.

Work in connection with the enforcement of maintenance and repairs of houses and the detection and eradication of nuisances generally, although tending to diminish with the increase in owner occupancy, still remains an important part of the work of a Public Health Department. One difficulty experienced in this connection is the inevitable delays which occur in effecting repairs due to the shortage of skilled craftsmen who direct their efforts into channels which tend to be more profitable and more congenial. Speaking generally, however, it must be agreed that substantial advances have taken place in late years in the housing stock of the area. In addition to the clearance of old and unfit houses, dwellings generally when viewed externally are now seen to present a cleaner and brighter appearance to the eye, and where this is seen outside it is always reflected internally by the provision of better internal lighting by the fitment of larger windows ; alterations and improvements in internal design; and brighter and more cheerful decorations. Much more, however, remains to be done, particularly with some of the older houses, and it now seems to have become an accepted fact that many of these have outlived their useful life and require replacement by modern units of accommodation or, at the very least, modernisation where practicable.

HOUSING ACTS 1957 - 1961 and LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT 1953

I am grateful to Mr. D. W. C. Morgan, the Clerk of the Council, for the following informations :-

Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were made	- 28
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were made	- 33
involving the whole of the premises	- 33
involving part of the premises	- nil
Number of houses where Closing Orders were revoked following	
undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	- nil
Number of houses demolished as a result of Compulsory Purchase	
or Clearance Orders	- 89

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1953
Rent Act 1957

Number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	- nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	- nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	- nil
Number of undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	- nil
Number of Certificates revoked by the Council	- nil
Number of applications for Certificates of Repair refused	- nil
Number of visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors in	
connection with Certificates of Disrepair	- nil

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

In company with a member of the Housing Manager's staff joint inspections are made by members of the Public Health Department and the Housing Department where considered necessary and desirable to houses under the control of the Council. Such visits are made to :-

- a) - dwellings as a direct instruction from the Council of Health and Housing Committee resulting from complaints by neighbours or interested persons where the required standards of cleanliness are not being maintained, are in danger of deterioration, or where the dwelling is in need of disinfection or fumigation ;
- b) - dirty or verminous houses or houses whose tenants are troubled by insect pests or rats ;
- c) - houses which are abused by the tenants ; or inspection of houses intended to be occupied by Council tenants with, where necessary, disinfection or disinfection ;
- d) - dwellings where there is an accumulation of refuse or rubbish, or with abandoned, or what appears to be abandoned, motor vehicles.

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MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949 - 1959

Milk is produced by 45 farms in the area. The major portion of this is taken in churns from whence it is collected by the pasteurising plants which operate outside the area. Since 1961 the Licensing Authority for the retailing of all grades of milk has been vested in the Food and Drugs Authority, which for the Gelligaer area, is the Glamorgan County Council. The responsibility for milk sampling also falls on the County Council. Complaints, apart from the misuse of milk bottles, were few. There were no complaints regarding the quality of milk itself. With regard to the misuse of milk bottles, it is interesting to note that the greater variety of materials used for food packing means that more use is being made of non-returnable containers for milk, particularly for milk supplies to school children.

It is not uncommon, particularly on building sites, to see many milk bottles strewn about the site and left there until they are ultimately broken with consequent danger to persons employed on the site and to trespassers, and frequent appeals on a national basis for the prompt return of these important and very necessary food containers are also issued by the Dairymen's Association and the Milk Marketing Board, especially at holiday periods.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

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As a result of complaints received	...	843
In connection with housing repairs	...	354

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

To dirty and verminous houses	...	59
As a result of notifiable disease	...	9
To Schools	...	47
To Piggeries and Smallholdings	...	334
To premises without a mains water supply	...	13
To moveable dwellings	...	39
To cinemas and places of entertainment	...	23
To Licensed Clubs and Premises	...	85
To premises conducting offensive trades	...	21
To refuse tips and ash tips	...	39
To rear lanes	...	201
To hairdressing establishments	...	27

INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955
and FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

To Dairy premises	...	21
To grocery establishments	...	207
To Cafes and Restaurants	...	139
To Factories and Bakehouses	...	157
To Butchers' shops	...	203
To school and industrial canteens	...	63
To ice-creameries	...	74
To licensed premises	...	85
To fish friers and fish restaurants	...	59

SCHOOL CANTEENS

For the 33 schools in the area there are 20 school kitchens, some kitchens preparing and cooking meals which are afterwards conveyed in hygienically designed insulated containers to smaller schools where kitchens are not provided. Almost 100 women are employed by the Education Authority in the preparation and cooking of mid-day meals, and approximately a further 60 since the introduction of the new category of 'meals supervisory assistant', making a grand total of 160 women in this employment. An average of 4,000 meals daily are consumed during the school year. Once again tribute must be paid to both the quality and the appetising nature of the meals provided, and to the diligence and hard work of all the staff concerned.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Articles of food which are found, on examination, to be unfit for human consumption are dealt with by incineration on the shop premises or, where it is impracticable, by collection by the Council's refuse lorries with subsequent deep burial on the Council's refuse tips. Food found to be unfit in 1970 included the following :-

Canned Fruit and Vegetables

279 lbs. Tomatoes,	67 lbs. Peaches,	27 lbs. Peas.
38 lbs. Grapefruit	41 lbs. Fruit Salad,	
183 lbs. Pears	28 lbs. Pineapple,	

Fresh Meats

101 lbs. Liver	124 lbs. Poultry,	29 lbs. Pork.
151 lbs. Beef		

Canned Meats

64 lbs. Corned Beef,	33 lbs. Tongue,	16lbs. Bacon,
208 lbs. Ham,		

Fish

39 lbs. Salmon,	29 lbs. Pilchards,
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Miscellaneous Foods

57lbs. Soup,	116 lbs. Sugar.	291 lbs. Flour.
93lbs. Cereals,	504 lbs. Biscuits,	34 lbs. Rice,
26 lbs. Milk.		

The total weight of all foods found to be unfit for human consumption was :-

12 cwts, 111 lbs

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 52

143 premises within the Urban Area are licensed for the sale of ice-cream. These premises consist of small parlour type shops, cafes, restaurants, grocers, and even some licensed premises. Many of the small shops operate sporadically in their ice-cream sales, or have in some instances been squeezed out of business by the very keen competition prevailing, especially in the favourable weather conditions prevailing in the warmer months.

11 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream under the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Several of these rely on the 'cold mix' manufacture where the complete ice-cream powder is purchased ready mixed and with the correct ingredients from large specialist firms who market the powder in sealed containers which are delivered to their customers. All that is required to produce ice-cream is to add the stated amount of water direct from the tap and freeze the mixture, after which the product is ready for sale. This has the advantage that the trader can manufacture the product more or less in accordance with his estimated sale requirements.

Samples of ice-cream taken during the year and submitted for examination showed the following results :-

27 samples taken
24 showed a satisfactory result
3 showed an unsatisfactory result

Samples which show unsatisfactory results are repeated until satisfactory result is obtained. Most ice-cream, particularly that prepared by the larger firms, is pre-packed before leaving the factory. When sampling, particular attention is paid to traders retailing the loose unwrapped commodity. Many mobile vans, several from outside the area, also retail ice-cream. Some of these vans are fitted with expensive machinery which manufacture ice-cream as and when required.

WATER SUPPLIES

A piped water supply is provided to most houses in the area, and only a small percentage of isolated houses and farms are unconnected to a piped supply and have to rely on rain water, springs or streams. There is no dwelling house dependant on a shallow well. Complaints of inadequate pressure are sometimes received and these are referred to the Water Board who co-operate in trying to improve existing supplies. During the year two samples of well and spring water were taken, at the request of the owner, from an isolated mountain farm. Both samples proved to be satisfactory, and it is now intended to provide a piped supply from this source to the farmhouse some 130 yards away. The Water Board, also, as may be expected, take frequent samples of the water supply for both chemical and bacteriological testing.

While a large number of houses in the area are not supplied with running hot water, the number is being reduced annually by the installation of gas or electric heaters over kitchen sinks, which ensure that hot water is available for ordinary household purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 and 1960

Principal food retail premises in the area are :-

6 Supermarkets.	39 Butchers' shops.	143 ice-cream vendors.
11 ice-cream manufacturers	6 Bakehouses.	23 cafes and restaurants.
63 public houses and clubs.		112 grocery stores,
17 Fried fish and chip shops.		

There are 23 premises in the area registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 - premises which are, or may be, used for the manufacture of potted, pickled, or preserved food intended for sale. Such foods include meat products such as sausages, faggots, meat pies and pasties, cooked hams and brawns and tongues. Many of these products are becoming monopolised by large specialist firms who distribute their goods wholesale from large controlled depots at frequent and regular intervals. All food premises are frequently visited and inspected to see that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts and the Food Hygiene Regulations are adhered to. Most food traders were supplied with copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations when they were first introduced, and copies are still available in the Department. Food manufacturers and handlers are generally ready to co-operate in effort to please their customers and incidentally enhance their businesses by complying with necessary local requirements. In this way they are greatly helped by the almost universal improvement of food premises today brought about by the use of laminated plastic materials, glass and stainless steel used for fittings and fixtures which reduce to the very minimum the need for cleaning and scrubbing in food premises. Almost every shop, however, small, has a refrigerator thus allowing perishable foods to be kept longer and with a greater degree of safety. The main streets of towns today are invariably taken over by shops having regional or national coverage, and which consign the smaller shops to the back streets. Trading methods are drastically changed and it is now the aim of the supermarket to confine all the needs of the housewife under one roof. Grocers no longer limit their sale to groceries but also sell meat, while butchers sell tinned foods and fresh vegetables. However, there is still need for watchfulness and the application of good basic training and common sense in efforts to arrive at and maintain high hygienic standards. Complaints of contamination or adulteration of food are still brought to the office, caused by gross carelessness or neglect on the part of food handlers, and among such instances in 1970 were :-

- a) - several loaves of wrapped bread affected by mould. This condition is not infrequently met with in the bakery trade during the summer months, and is invariably caused by the improper and insufficient cooling of the bread after removal from the oven and before wrapping?
- b) - a bottle of mineral water which contained a substance with the appearance of cotton wool. On enquiry it became established that the bottle had been overlooked by the shopkeeper resulting in the contents becoming stale and unpalatable.

- c) - meat pies affected by mould.
- d) - an apple turnover affected by mould. This matter was referred to the Glamorgan County Food and Drugs Inspector who instituted proceedings against the manufacturers. At a subsequent Court hearing the defendants were fined £20 with £9-50p costs.

Much publicity has of late been given to the date code stamping of wrapped foods which today is the method adopted by most manufacturers of perishable food. Meat products such as pies, sliced bacon and ham, and cakes and other confectionery are wrapped in attractive type wrapping which bears a code, either stamped or in the form of perforations, on the container. Reference to the code indicates to the manufacturer the expiry date after which the food should not be sold. Criticism arises from the fact that in some instances the code itself is kept a secret by the manufacturer from the shop keeper and that where this happens van delivery men have been said to have exploited the position for their own ends by delivering stale goods which have been collected from the larger stores and reselling them to the smaller shops. Although foods which have an expired date is not necessarily unfit, as much would depend upon the manner and temperature at which it has been stored, so much public disquiet has been aroused that the Government has decided to set up a new enquiry into the matter of date marking of foods. In this connection it is interesting to note the findings of the Food Standards Committee when they last examined this question in 1964. Their reasons then for not recommending a last date when the food should be consumed are quoted in full here :-

" this is an attractive proposition (i.e. the date manufacture, packaging of despatch of prepacked food) which would, it is claimed, enable both the retailer and consumer to determine quickly and easily whether food stuffs are fresh or fit to eat. In our view, however, such a requirement is not practical since so much depends not on the date the product was made but on the quality and freshness of the food from which it was prepared, or on the conditions under which it was transported or stored. In certain cases a date stamp might give purchasers a sense of security which is not justified by the conditions under which the food has been kept since manufacture; the Food and Drugs Acts give adequate protection to anybody who considers that the food purchased is not of the nature, substance and quality demanded by him and we therefore make no recommendation regarding the date marking of prepacked foodstuffs."

During the course of the year several instances of date stamp expiry on foodstuffs were brought to the attention of grocers and grocery branch managers. These were always afterwards removed and returned to the depots.

CARAVAN SITES AND
CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Three caravan sites are approved and licensed by the Council.
All of these are for one caravan only.

The largest caravan site in the area - licensed for the siting of 45 caravans - was closed during the year and the former site devoted to other purposes. One other site is no longer used as such.

All three caravans licensed are used for residential purposes.

The Gelligaer area is very fortunate in the fact that no problems arise from the itinerant type of caravan dweller and although the need for a permanent caravan site for the use of gypsies has been considered by the Council as provided for by the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, experience shows that this requirement is not necessary in the district as it is quite free, and has been for a number of years, of gypsies.

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OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

287 premises are registered under the Act, the requirements of which relate solely to those premises where persons are employed in the trade or business concerned. Self employed persons, or premises where members of the owner's immediate family are employed are not required to be registered. Details of some of the operations of the Act are as follows :-

Total number of premises registered	-	287
Number of visits made to such premises	-	589
Number of premises generally inspected	-	259
Number of new premises registered in 1970	-	8
Number of accidents to personnel reported	-	6
Number of males employed	-	712
Number of females employed	-	811
Total persons employed	-	1523

Of the 8 reported accidents, 4 were caused by lifting weights ; 1 by coming into contact with a hard surface, and one by falling off a step ladder. Since the introduction of the Act injury to the back as a result of lifting weights is much the most common type of accident reported as causing loss of work.

Many contraventions of the provisions of the Act are still found during the course of inspection and it is surprising to find apathy and ignorance of the legal provisions which still exist. Among contraventions of the Act found were :-

- a) - absence of, or insufficient first aid materials for the use of employees.
- b) - no thermometer displayed ; or absence of proper temperature control.
- c) - inadequate provisions for washing ; supply of running hot water not readily available;
- d) - inadequate guarding of machinery;
- e) - inadequate lighting of sanitary conveniences during the winter period when the hours of daylight are minimal.

BYE-LAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All barbers' and hairdresser's establishments in the area have been supplied with copies of the bye-laws relating to hygiene and cleanliness standards that must be provided and maintained in their premises, which came into force in 1964. There were 46 such establishments known to the Department, some of them being conducted in front rooms of private houses, and probably more unofficial ones carried out by friends and relatives. Infringements of these conditions imposed by the bye-laws constitute an offence and are punishable by a fine on conviction.

LICENSED CLUBS AND PREMISES

There are 63 licensed premises in the area, made up as follows :-

29 licensed clubs
34 public houses.

Regular visits were made to all licensed premises, both during hours of business and when closed to the public. In past years, very many improvements and additions have been made to premises of this nature, more particularly to clubs. These improvements apply to both hygienic and sanitary features, and amenities and comforts for the customer or club member such as fitted carpets and floor coverings, laminated plastic topped counters and tables are provided, and much more comfortable seating, artificial lighting, and ventilation provided. Colour television has also been installed in some premises; some public houses, particularly when there is a change of tenancy, try to increase trade by the sale of sandwiches and snacks from rooms formerly not used for this purpose. Infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations can, and sometimes do, occur in such cases,

All inspections, especially those in the case of club premises, are welcomed by the Management, and the Department is not infrequently consulted when new developments or additional facilities are contemplated. Any infringements of the Acts or Regulations are immediately notified to the persons having control of the premises. During the year letters sent to such people included the following :-

- a) - to repair or renew existing surfaces of counters and/or shelves used for the storage of glasses ;
- b) - to repair or renew defective and burst water pipes and flushing cisterns to sanitary conveniences ;
- c) - requiring the redecoration and cleansing of sanitary conveniences, and the repair of defective doors and fittings to rooms and cellars used as storage ;
- d) - requiring the provision of hot water supply to food rooms ;
- e) - to provide and fix fastenings to doors of sanitary conveniences.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS
1933 and 1958

5 men residing in the area are registered as slaughtermen. There is no slaughterhouse in the Urban Area, and almost all fresh meat sold in the shops is brought in from the other districts where slaughterhouses are sited such as at Maesycwmmwr, Brynmawr, Cardiff and Newport. Meat imported from abroad - i.e. Canterbury Lamb, and Argentinian or Australian Beef - is distributed from cold stores and warehouses situated at the docks in Cardiff and Newport, distribution being done by large motor vehicles which deliver directly to the retail shops.

During 1970 35 cottager's pigs kept by pig breeders at smallholdings or allotments were slaughtered for human consumption ; these were all inspected as to fitness for human consumption by your Public Health Inspectors.

By arrangement with the Council of the Bedwas and Machen Urban Area, your inspectors also carry out relief work during holidays or periods of illness at the Maesycwmmwr Abattoir.

PET ANIMALS ACTS 1937 - 1961

Two premises, both in Bargoed, are registered for the sale, and keeping for sale, of pet animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, cats, dogs and budgerigars. Both premises are regularly visited and no complaints arose during the period.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Since 1969 when the only common lodging house in the area was closed, there has been no premises of this nature in operation.

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SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1955
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

Four persons have been registered by the Council as Scrap Metal Dealers since the Act came into operation in 1965. One of these is registered as an itinerant dealer, and three firms operate in the area, one at Bargood, and the others in Ystrad Mynach. The Urban Area, however, is adequately covered by several more journeying from nearby towns. Undoubtedly, a great deal of unwanted household refuse and articles such as firegrates, fire irons, and discarded clothes and textiles are disposed of by these traders, and one has only to visit their premises to see the amount of discarded materials collected to realise the problems of disposal that would arise were these businesses not in operation. Since neither of the registered persons collect animal bones or waste meat products, possible nuisance from this source is avoided and no complaints of any kind were received in 1970.

Under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 a duty is placed upon all Local Authorities to provide places where refuse other than refuse arising in the course of a business may be disposed of at all reasonable times, and the Council has now instituted a collection and disposal system whereby all bulky unwanted materials may be collected by arrangement with the Council's Cleansing Department. This service is still surprisingly not well known despite notices which have been published in the local press and by other means of publicity, and mountain tops and similar unfrequented spots are found littered by collections of mattresses, beds, furniture and other discarded articles, some of it in a condition to give offence even to the least squeamish persons, and all of it offending aesthetically. It is surprising how the same dumping spots are used time and again by people with articles to dispose of, articles which are usually in a filthy or verminous condition, and which are always dumped during hours of darkness, and it would surely be more sensible if people availed themselves of the collection services available. During the year, at no little expense, the Council commenced a large programme of making up unmade back lanes throughout the area. Apart from the obvious other advantages that will accrue from this, it is hoped that this amenity will foster a greater feeling of civic pride among the populace, and substantially contribute to the visual improvement of the area.

The Civic Amenities Act gave increasing powers to Local Authorities for the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles. Powers are also given generally to Local Authorities to remove and impound vehicles that appear to have been abandoned and to charge the cost of removal and storage to the owner of the vehicle. It is not always possible to trace the owner of every abandoned car, and during 1970 the Department was responsible for the removal of 33 vehicles and, by putting pressure on the owners, responsible for getting another 21 removed. By these joint measures, and with the co-operation of the general public, it is hoped that further spoiling of many open spaces in the area can be prevented.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 - 1961

90 factories of various types and size operate in the area, and these include factories which are engaged in light and heavy engineering, and employing substantial numbers of operatives, and the 'back room' type of radio and television dealer which may be used only occasionally,

Other factories manufacture car components, children's toys, food containers, and various miscellaneous products. With the run down of the coal industry of late years, upon which the district largely depended, every effort has been made by the Council to attract industrialists into the area so as to provide alternative means of employment, and some areas of land have been set aside for this purpose and freely publicised through various media. Frequent visits are made to all factories for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the Factories' Acts, and factories within the district may be classified as follows :-

Factories to which sections 2,3,4,5,6, and 7 of the Act apply	- 87
Factories to which section 7 only of the Act applies	- 3
Number of visits made to factories during the year	- 387

8 notices were served during the year upon owners or persons responsible directing attention to infringements of the Act or Regulations under the Act, viz :-

a) - requiring the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences	- 2
b) - regarding defects to sanitary conveniences	- 2
c) - requiring proper cleaning of walls, windows and ceilings	- 1
d) - requiring redecoration of internal walls and ceilings	- 3

41 persons - mainly women and old age pensioners - are employed as outworkers under the Act. Their work consists of minor alterations to clothing, or the dressing or trimming of moulded rubber articles.

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RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Work involved in the destruction and eradication of rats and mice, and the general control of insect pests both within and about dwelling houses and workplaces continued unceasingly during the year. In addition, the bi-annual treatments for rats in sewers, which was done with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food continued. These twice yearly treatments have undoubtedly contributed to the control and reduction of the rat population in sewers and drains. In the table shown below I give further details of routine work carried out during the year :-

	<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits made</u>
Dwelling houses	491	286	852
Business premises	14	11	113
Refuse tips and dumps	57	49	111
Rivers, brooks and culverts	95	92	103

Although there are occasional scares received the rat population generally has, by measures of control, undoubtedly been kept within reasonable bounds.

127 dwelling houses were disinfested after infestation by vermin, the majority being by bed bug infestation. This is an increase of 34 houses on the figure for 1968 and a decrease of 15 over 1969. 24 of these premises were treated on a rechargeable basis.

3 factory premises within the area have annual contracts with the Council to keep their premises free from the presence of rats and mice, and in all three instances regular inspections and necessary treatments are carried out, for which a fixed fee is charged by the Council. All three firms have expressed satisfaction with this system and with the service provided.

Many complaints are received from residents of scratching sounds and noises in their attics, and not unnaturally rats and mice are immediately suspected. This complaint is particularly prevalent in the springtime and while rats are frequent visitors to attics and lofts over buildings, very often it is found that nesting birds are the cause of the trouble.

In connection with the control and eradication of pests, much publicity and no little alarm to people residing in the houses was occasioned by an infestation of earwigs on a Council estate at Gelligaer. In all, about 30 houses, which had been built only 3 or 4 years previously, were infested. The insects appeared only at night and there were literally thousands of them infesting exterior walls, the interiors of houses, and everywhere imaginable causing people to lose sleep, and becoming a general nuisance. Specimens of the pests were taken for entomological examination and were established as being of the genus *Forficula Auriculia* - a species of earwig nocturnal in habit which lives on herbage. They were ultimately completely eradicated by constant effort and successive spraying with insecticide after about fourteen days.

VANDALISM AND ILLICIT
DUMPING OF REFUSE AND RUBBISH

Continued evidence of vandalism and in particular the dumping of refuse and rubbish of all kinds are to be seen on waste ground and open spaces throughout the area. Apart from giving offence to the physical and visual amenity of the area, nuisance and even danger can arise from unauthorised dumps of this kind, and frequent complaints of rat infestations of these dumps are received.

Old mattresses, perambulators and other articles are dumped by householders to the general detriment of the area generally, and although the Council has now instituted a scheme whereby bulky unwanted articles will be collected by the Council's refuse lorries to be properly disposed of, infringements of the law still take place. Handbills warning people of the offence are distributed to dwelling houses in close proximity to where the offence occurs, but the only effective remedy would appear to have the culprits before a Police Court with the imposition of a substantial fine were the offenders found to be guilty.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. Thomas

Senior Public Health Inspector

